INSPECTORS OF STATE PRISONS. OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

During the year that has just expired, the several prisons have esjoyed a usual degree of health, and, with slight exceptions, their financial condition has steadily improved.

The number of convicts in the State, on the lat of December, 1849, was 1, 484—the number remaining at the close of 1850, 1,611.

There have been seventeen less convicts at the Clinton, and the female prisons, than in the previous year. There has been an increase of 123 at Auburn, and 22 at the male prison, Sing Sing. The greater increase at Auburn arises from a transfer of seventeen convicts from Sing Sing, and from the fact that for the want of employment at the latter prison, owing to the destruction of the workshops by fire, the courts in the third judicial district, sentenced a large majority of their convicts to the former prison.

by fire, the courts in the third judicial district, sentenced a large majority of their convicts to the former prison.

The arrangement of the prison districts by the act of 1848, chapter 141, leaving it discretionary with the courts of the third judicial district to sentence convicts to either Auburn or Sing Sing, is found to be judicious, as it enables the inspectors, at all times, by giving an intimation to the judges, to have those convicted, consigned to the prison where their services will be most advantageous to the Sante, and to prevent either from being crowded beyond its capacity to keep them in a healthy and proper manner. Perhaps in another year it will be expedient to have all those convicted in the third district sentenced to Sing Sing.

By examining the movintions of the past year, and comparing them with the population of the several counties, it appears that in Albany they amount to 1 in 2,414; Erie, 1 in 1,120; Kings, 1 in 2,323; Monroe, 1 in 3,338; New York, 1 in 2,320; Onondaga, 1 in 4,127; Oneida, 1 in 4,709; Ontario, 1 in 25,539; Dutchess, 1 in 18,374; Delaware, 1 in 36,590, and in similar proportions throughout the State.

Of the 600 convicts received at the several pri-

State.

Of the 600 convicts received at the several prisons during the same period, 508 males and 27 fe-males are on their first conviction, 54 males and 2 fe-females are on their second, 7 males are on their third, and 2 on their fourth.

The executive elemency has been extended to forty-five convicts, being saxteen more pardons than were granted the previous year.

To the knowledge of the inspectors, but one of

To the knowledge of the inspectors, but one of the 192 convicts pardoned during the last three years has been returned to prison, while many of them are pursuing honest and upright callings, and give hopeful evidence of positive reformation. The proportion of pardons to the average number of convicts the last year, has been at Auburn, 1 in 30; at Sing Sing, 1 in 45; at Clinton, 1 in 23; at the femule prison, 1 in 26. The previous year the preportion was at Sing Sing, 1 in 58; at Auburn, 1 in 44; at Clinton, 1 in 59.

portion was at Sing Sing, I in 58; at Auburn, I in 44; at Clinton, I in 39.

The system of discipline introduced under the law of 1847, equals our highest expectations, and, after three years' experience, we are not a little gratified to be able to report that, under its mild treatment, better order every where prevails, labor is more cheerfully performed, and the moral and physical condition of the convicts is vastly improved. The lash and other instruments of torture, which were calculated to inflame the plessions and engender hatted and animosity, have been supplanted by methods of correction more consistent with the dictates of humanity. The convict, no longer treated like a brute, feels that even in prison he can exercise the attributes of a man, and that the condition of no one is so low that human sympathy cannot reach him, or so degraded that kindness and, forgiveness will not reward his good actions and unaffected repentance.

The shower bath is principally relied upon to correct the incorrigible, and is regarded as the severest punishment resorted to. While it has been found an effectual instrument in subdoing the passions, and reducing the refractory and turbulent to calmness and submission, its effects upon the physical system are invigorating and beneficial.

SAMITARY CONDITION.

SANITARY CONDITION.

SANITARY CONDITION.

The whole number of dea has at the Auburn prison, to Nevember 30, 1850 was.

At the Sing Sing male prison, from disease...

Do. do. do drowned...

Do. do. do accidentally killed.

Do. do female prison

Do. Cliston prison.

Total .... 53
The deaths at Auburn prison are equal to 1 in 73 The deaths at Auburn prison are equal to 1 in 73
4-9 of the daily average of convicts. At Sing Sing
they amount to 1 in 38, 14 18; but as three of these
died by accident, the nortality from disease is but
1 in 46, 8-15. At the female prison they amount to
1 in 26, at Clinton to 1 in 39. The average number of all the convicts being 1,556, and the deaths
from natural causes 30, it will be seen that they
amount to only 1 in 514, which exhibits a sanitary
condition that will compare favorably with any
similar institutions in the country.

TREMS OF SENTENCE.

The terms of sentence or 720 convicts, being the whole number confined in the Auburn prison, (ex-clusive of 12 who are sentenced for life) average 4 years 9 months and 12 days. Of these 449 are con-fined from 2 to 5 years, 175 from 5 to 10 years, and fined from 2 to 5 years, 175 from 5 to 10 years, and 96 from 10 to 22 years. Of the 303 convicts received at this prison during the past year, the longest term, (excepting one for life.) is 15 years, and the shortest 2 years. Their aggregate term of sentence amounts to 1,182 years and 5 months, and the average to 3 years, 10 months and 25 days.

At the Sing Sing male prison, the terms of 680 convicts, (not including 14 sentenced for life) average 5 years, 9 months and 7 15 30 days. Of these 302 are for 1 to 5 years, 156 for 5 to 10 years, and 162 for 10 to 25 years.

The terms of sentence of 113 convicts at the Clinton prison, (exclusive of one sentenced for

Clinton prison, (exclusive of one sentenced for life,) average 4 years, 5 months and 15 days. Of these 75 are for 2 to 5 years, 25 for 5 to 10 years, these 75 are for 2 to 5 years, 25 for 5 to 10 years, and 13 for 10 to 20 years.

Of the 71 female convicts the terms of sentence average 3 years, 7 months and 27 days. Here 52 are sentenced for 2 to 5 years, 15 for 5 to 10 years, and 4 for 10 to 11 years.

The aggregate term of sentence of all the convicts in the State, exclusive of the 27 doomed to imprisonment for life, amounts to 8,220 years.

are object of Sixts prison confinement being not only to punish offences already committed, but to score society against future violations. only to punish offences already committed, but to secure society against future violations of law, by improving the minds and reforming the characters of those who find their way here, it becomes a subject of inquiry whether these desirable ends cannot better se accomplished by a shorter term of sentence on first convictions, without deriment to the administration of public justice. Shorter sentences are advocated.

A very large number who are discharged from their first term, never return to prison, and it is but fair to conclude that the necessary privations and sufferings attending their incarceration, coupled with the mental instruction and reforming influences provided by the beneficence of the State, have deterred them from further indulgence in their evicourses, and restored them to a bester condition of life.

CAUSES OF CRIME. Of 732 cenvicts at Auburn prison, 517 were never instructed in any trade or calling, whereby to earn a subsistence, 308 had been deprived of a home bea subsistence, 308 had been deprived of a nome before 16 years of age, 191 were deprived of one, and ISI of both parents before 16 years of age, 185 were intoxicated at the time of committing the offence, 394 were without occupation at the time of arrest, 371 were intemperate, 468 had received no religious or meral instruction, and 512 had never read the Bible, or attended divine acryice. A critical examination of the convicts in the other prisons would exhibit a still more deplorable picture of neglected education and early abandonment to vice and crime.

to vice and crime.
Of the 694 males in the Sing Sing prison, 349 were under 20 years of age at the time of their conviction, 487 had never been taught a trade, 60 could not read, 149 could read only, and that indif-

ferently, and 230 were intemperate.

Of the 114 convicts at Clinton, 10 could not read, and 29 could read only, while two thirds of the

Of the 114 convicts at Clinton, 10 could not read, and 29 could read only, while two thirds of the whole number admit their intemperance.

At the Female prison, we find, that of the 71 remaining in December last, twenty five could neither read nor write, 17 cound read only, and the belance had received a very limited instruction in the elementary branches. Upwards of 50, or nearly twenthirds of the whole, were intermperate, and, for the most part, dissolute in their habits in early life. Eleven were under 20 years of age at the time of their conviction, and but 28 are natives of the United States.

NUMBER OF CONVICTS IN E. Nature of Crime. S.	acti or ing Ship toles, F	Pr. A	THESE		
Abduction	100	2	4		3
Abduction and rape	1	100	- 1	-	1
Assault to commit rape.	- 6	1	13		24
Assault to kill	32	1	29	7	24 69
Attempt to poissu	2	2	2		- 6
Bigamy	14	min.	20	1	35
Crime against nature	-		2	-	- 1
Incest, and attempt to					
eommit do	2	-	4	148	
Inveigling & kidnapping	1986	-	1	-	1
Manriaughter	19	2	16	- 4	41
Murger	4	-	6	1	11
Perjury and subornation	A 1919			100	1100
Tailor and and an annual	22	1		4	14

Arece and grand larceny Breat mg pail....

Nature of Crime.	Sing Sin	Pr.	lub's.	Olice. 1	Istal.
Burglery and lareeny	-	-	75		78
Hm bearlement	75	***			1
Grand larceny	235	84	234	24	587
Petit larceny, 2d, 3d and 4th offences		15	62	10	104
Counterfeiting and at		1	22		81
Felse pretences		-	1	1	1
Robbery		1	22		81
Stealing letters from the	-	-	3	-	
Post Office	-	-	1	-	1
Robbery and attempt to					
kill.				-	- 4
Receiving stolen goods.				-	13
Mayhem		-			
Steeling a child			-	-	
Carrying unlawful wesp.		-	1	-	
Writing threatening let		-	-	-	*
ters	-	-	-	1	1
Total	694	71	732	114	1611

AMUSERENCES

The wise and beneficent provision of the law of 1847, authorizing the employment of teachers to instruct the convicts in the rudiments of a common English education, has been improved with decided advantage to those who could be induced to avail thenselves of it. Many have made considerable advencement, and a large number who can now read their Bibles understandingly, and write a legible hand, will ever feel indebted to the authors of this law for these useful acquirements. The rudiments have been given to 472 criminals in the various prisons. INSTRUCTION.

CONVICT EMPLOYMENT.

diments have been given to 472 criminals in the various prisons.

CONVICT EMPLOYMENT.

In the vicinity of the city of Auburn there are a number of discharged convicts who had acquired trades during their imprisonment, and who found employment immediately upon leaving the prison. They are said to be industrious, sober, and upright citizens. On the other hand, at least five of every six who are committed on a second conviction, are among those who had not acquired the knowledge of any mechanical business at which they could find employment after leaving the prison.

Of the 1,540 male convicts now in prison, 928 are under 30 years of age, and (including I teacher, 4 lawyers, 4 physicians, and 28 mercantile clerks, none of whom will be likely to prosecute those professions successfully hereafter,) there are 1,042 who have never learned any mechanical trade. Over two hundred of these are under twenty, and a large majority are under twenty five years of age.

The law prohibiting the teaching of trades in our prisons, was adopted prior to the present admirable and reforming system of discipline and instruction, and had its origin in the injury which their learning trades was supposed to inflict upon those engaged in similar callings. The fallacy of this objection has been frequently exposed; and, we think we may truly aver, that if all the convicts in the State were employed upon the same branch, the product of their united labor would not affect the price of the article, or seriously compete in our own market with the manufacturers of a similar article in many of the New England towns.

The supposition entertained by some that the acquirement of a mechanical trade will enable these men to find their way into the workshops of the country, thus endangering the morals of the young who are ignorant of their real characters, is as groundless as it is proscriptive and ungenerous. If such a principle is to prevail, the doer of hope is forever closed to the convict, and the efforts for his retormation and improvement, are an

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK Under this head, the fifth report of the associa-tion, published in April last, and reproduced in an abstract form in the Heraid, is examined. It appears that the charges made against the State prisons were without the authority of many of the officers

of the association.

By section 4th, article 5th, of the constitution, to the inspectors is submitted "the charge and superintendence of the State prisons," and yet the members of the Prison Association claim that, in pursuance of the fits section of their charter, which was granted prior to the adoption of the constitution, they possess co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Inspectors, are independent of them, and have the right to usurp the authority of the wardens and subordinate officers.

On the 4th of November last, a committee of that association again agreement at the prison and served.

upon the warden the following papers:

New York. October 2, 1350.

Pursuant to section 6th of the act entitled an act to incorporate the Prison Association of New York, passed May 9th, 1846. I do allow the examination within mentioned and direct that John D. Russ, William Walm Drinker, Charles Partridge, and Richard Reed, do examine the State prison situated at Sing Sing, and that said examination be concluded within ninety days from this date.

[Signed]

JOHN W. EDMONDS.

Justice Supreme Court.

The undersigned, a committee of the executive committee of the Frison Association of New York, demand permission to visit and examine Sing Sing prison, unstreaded by any officer or other person, in compliance with the 6th section of the charter of the asid association, and that portion of the revised statutes to which treiers, which are in ike following words, to wit:

[Here followed the 6th section of the charter of the association, and the section of the statutes referred to.]

(Signed)

WALN DRINKER,
CHA'S PARTRIDGE.

Dated Sino Sino, Nov. 4th, 1850.

Thus, it will be seen, a committee, who acknow-

Thus, it will be seen, a committee, who acknowledge no responsibility to the Legislature or to the
Inspectors, for the consequences which might result from their proceedings in the prison, demand
to enter it unattended by its sworn officers, or any
other person, withdraw the convicts from the immediate observation of the keepers, say what they
please, and do what they always and that these mediate observation of the keepers, say what they please, and do what they please, and that these extraordinary proceedings, so inconsistent with the constitution, and the provisions of the law of December 14th, 1847, so detrimental to discipline, and so injurious to the interests of the State and contractors, may be prolonged to "ninety days," and by other orders of the judge, may occur several times during the same year.

In answer to their demand on this and other occasions, the warden declined surrendering into their hands the authority he was alone bound to exercise, but "offered to show them every part of the prison, all books and vapers accertaining there-

exercise, but "offered to show them every part of the prison, all books and papers appertaining there, to, and to permit them to examine the convicts but insisted that such interviews should be in his

Presence."

The course pursued by the warden is not only the course pursue sy the warden is not only just and projer, in view of his official position, and the dangers he has constantly to encounter from the superintendence of so many persons of this class, but it is consistent with the recorded rules and regulations of the inspectors, made and entered pursuant to the 4th and 9th sub-divisions of section 34, article 1st of the prison laws, adopted December 14th, 1847.

tion 34, article 1st of the prison laws, adopted De-cember 14th, 1847.

It cannot be supposed that the Legislature in-tended to require the inspectors "to make general rules and regolations for the government and dis-cipline of the prisons," end at the same time au-thorize an irresponsible committee to take such course as to render those rules and regulations nu-gatory, and to defeat the very objects the law was designed to accomplish.

gatory, and to defeat the very objects the law was designed to accomplish.

That the examinations of convicts by these committees are not productive of any substantial benefit, and may be used for mischievous purposes, is rendered manifest by the fifth annual report of the Prison Association made to the Legislature in April last. In that report various statements purporting to be made by discharged convicts, are elaborately paraded and seriously commented upon, in which the officers of that prison are charged with supplying bad and unwholesome provisions, using the cat by way of punishment, caning convicts and knocking them down with clubs, striking sick men when confined to their beds in the hospital, inflicting personal chastisement upon the female convicts, and unnecessarily shooting men down.

shooting men down.

If it is deemed advisable, say the inspectors, to establish a supervisory power over the inspectors to look after the management of all the prisons (the importance and necessity of which we wil (the importance and accessity of which we will not question,) we would most respectfully suggest the creation of a permanent committee, to consist of a given number of members at both branches of the Legislature, whose duty it shall be to visit all the prisons, during the recess, and report the result of their examinations to the succeeding Legislature, which, in turn, could institute a similar committee.

CONTRACTS FOR LABOR.
Since our less report three new contracts have Since our last report three new contracts have been made for the employment of convict labor at the Sing Sing prison; the first with Joseph J Lewis for the services of from 30 to 50 convicts to be employed in the manufacture of saddlery hardware, for the term of five years from the lat of May, 1860, at 35 cents per day. Secondly, with William Johnson, for the services of from 20 to 50 convicts, to be employed in manufacturing topestry carpets and rogs, for the term of five years from the lat day of October, 1850, at 40 cents per day. The third with Charles H. Woodruff, for the services of from 30 to 50 convicts, (if so many in the prison are certified ar cabinet makers,) to be employed in the manufacture of cabinet furniture, upholstery, and chairs, for the term of five years from the 1st of October last, at 40 cents per day. The agent is also advertising the services of from 30 to 60 cenvicts, to be employed in manufacturing saws and files, and from 30 to 50 to be employed in making shocks.

g shocks
These several additional contracts when they
all be fully in operation, will furnish employent for a good pertical of the hitherto unproducre conviers, and contribute a handsome sum to
ards the mantenance of the prison.
No new contracts have been entered into at Auon of Chains during the past year.

The average working time each day at A abura paices, 10 hours 17 minutes. At Chaine, the average across me S minutes. At Sing Sing, the average across me S minutes.

At the Auburn prison the total amount of one received from all sources during the year ending 30th September, 1850, includate on hand at the commencement of the year was.

The total amount of expenditures for all purposes, wes.

71,164 07 Leaving a cash balance on hand, Septem-+ 20, The cash balance on hand at the com-mencement of the year, was.... The carnings of the prison during the year ending teptember 30th, 1850, amounted to \$10,835 80 to.
The expenditure for ordinary support for the same period, was. 08.453 78 56 165 87

Less than in 1849 (or a decrease of eight mills per day).

The daily average earnings of each convict during the same period, was 28 3-10 cens.

The daily average expense of each convict has been, during the same period, 23 3-10 cents, being less by two cents than in 1849.

91 92 Less expenses for each convict in 1850 ..... \$4 40 The average earnings of each convictover expenses in 1850, was, including salaries of officers.

The same, in 1849, was

\$1 05 Difference in favor of 1850 ..... \$4 32 

\$8,711 06

Leaving a cash balance on hand, September 20 1850.

The total emount of expenditares during the fiscal year for the ordinary support of the male and female prisons, was...

The total amount of earnings, from all sources, was... 70,234 99 Excess of expenditures over earnings...

From this sum should be deducted, being the portion of the earnings of the last fiscal year not yet paid for, and therefore not included in the above, but will be found in the list of debts due the prison, which accompanies the agent's report.

Actual excess of expenditure over earn-

Bicess of expenditures over earnings.... Deduct total of expenditures over earnings for both prisons..... 1.129 22

By which it estisfactorily appears that the earnings of the male prison exceed the expenditures for its own ordinary support in the sum of.

The total earnings of the male prison, de-questing the tensor earnings are The total expenditures for male prison, de-ducting the expenses of the female prison are. Excess of earnings in male prison over its

expenses.
In 1850 the total earnings of both prisons, including the sum still due from contractors, amounted to.
In 1849 the total earnings were. \$9.006 37

The average earnings of each convict, male and female during the year ending Sep-tember 30, 1850, was.

The same during 1849, was.

In favor of 1850....
Tetal average cost of ordinary support of each male and female convict for 1859.

The same in 1849, was. 

Difference in favor of 1880..... Of the male prison only:
Average earnings per convict in 1850......
Average expenses per convict in 1850......

Average earnings per convict over expenses. ... Average expenses, exclusive of salaries of offi Average carnings over expenses, exclusive of ealaries....
Of the female prison only
Average earnings per convict for 1850.....
Average earnings per convict for 1849.....

Difference in tavor of 1850. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 510 wi The earnings of the Sing Sing prison are considerably less than was anticipated in the early part of the year, owing to the interruption of business by the fires which occurred in February and August.

August.
At Clinton prison the cash receipts from all sources during the fiscal year ending deptember 30th, 1850 were.

S57.567
The expenditures for all purposes during the rame period, were.

37.663 Shewing a deficiency in the receipts, of. 125 42

Blacksmith's shop.
Convicts' deposits and laterest &c..... The earnings of the prison during the past fiscal year were for iron sold and delivered \$12,119 12 Iron ore on hand Sept 20th, 1850. 9,000 of Blacksmith's and machine shop 482 83 Yegitables raised on State land by convict labor. 250 00

Excess of expenses over earnings, for each

convict. \$91.30

The large excess of expenses over earnings is accounted for by the agent, upon the ground that the expensed situation of the prison, and the manner in which the convicts are necessarily so utered in the prosecution of their labor, demand as much force in guarding them as would be required to keep a much larger number at the other Nuch labor has been performed, however, by

Much labor has been performed, however, by the few convicts here detained. About 7,900 true of ore have been russed and separated; the grounds of the prison enclosure have been graded, improved, and cultivated; the vegetables for prison use have been produced from prison land; fifty rods of the plank road was constructed, and the plank for two miles and a half turnished by con ict labor. The presecution of the iron business cannot be relied upon as the only source of convict employment or rison succept.

APPROPRIATIONS. The balance remaining in the hands of the agent of the Auburn prison is deemed sufficient to meet

all demands against it, and that officer is confident that its revenues arisingt from convic labor will defray all its expenses for the current year.

For the Sing Sing prison the following appropriations arg deemed absolutely necessary.

For the payment of debts existing prior to January, 1848, 1849, 1849, 1849, 1849, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 1850, 185

Beyond this the Inspectors would recommend an appropriation of \$25,000, to be applied to the construction of a wall around the prisens, to be drawn from the treasury upon the warrant of the Comptroller, in sums of \$5,000; the agent's draft in all cases to be certified by the Inspector in charge that the money is required for that specific purpose.

The Clinton prison will require an appropriation of \$2 : 00 to meet its existing liabilities, and to provide, in part, for its maintenance during the current year.

ALEXADER H. WELLS,
DARIUS CLARK,
DAVID D. SPENCER.
Inspectors of State Prisons

The folio formanse Measures, on the Company of the measure of Goverance Manager that part of the measures for Goverance Manager that part of the compromise measures lately passed by Congres; "The conduct of the abolitonists, sustained as they are by political demapogues, in reference to the law for the recepture of the Union. Although that law is one of the series of enactments, designed by Congress to resion harmony among the different sections of the Union, still it cannot properly be termed, of itself, an act were sajused by must not combining interests was but the discharge of a solemn daty to the slaveholding States—a daty enjoined by the constitution, from which Congress could not shrink without a total disregard of an imperative obligation. It rests for its support, not solely upon the good faith to observe it, which springs from its connection with other measures recently passed, connected with this question of slavery, but it taken separately, as an independent measure, upon take a superstately, as an independent measure, upon take a superstately, and its continuous of the slavery as its description of that law, and its continuous of the slavery as its description of the fave, and its continuous of the slavery as its description of the slavery, and its continuous and consequently, the perpetuity of the Union, and consequently, the perpetuity of the Union, and of which they cannot be deprived as long as the constitution and the Union and the Union and the proper of the slavery of th

sentiment, and bring it to be at upon these laws. In a word, to bring about such a political revolution as would sweep them from the statute book.

Out of these and other kindred measures, grew the memorable contest of 1800, which ended in the elevation of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency, and the repeal of those obnoxious laws.

The rights of the slave owner within the States,

The rights of the slave owner within the States, are secured by a plain constitutional provision, and with these the general government have never interfered. The power of Congress to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the territories, is the point out of which the whole controversy has anisen. This power is not among those expressly granted by the constitution, and is to be derived, if at all, by a necessary implication and construction from some one of the expressly delegated powers. Epon this point a difference of opinion exists. There are eminent statesmen, whose opinions are entitled to great weight and consideration, who claim this power; and the many repeated acts of the government, in its various department, give force and effect to this position. While others, whose opinions are equally entitled to be respected, deny the existence of the power.

Before the adoption of the Constitution, the ordinance of 1787 had been passed, which disposed of the question of slavery in all the territory then belonging to the United States. The silence of the convention which adopted the constitution, and which was in seasion at the time of the passage of the ordinance, upon the manner of the disposition of this territory, when the question of the rights of slave owners was under consideration, furnishes a strong reason to believe that there was a allent acquiescence in it, and that the convention did not look to the subject of slavery further than it existed in the States at the time. Taking this view of the subject, and our government being one of strictly limited delegated powers, is mu awilling to derive the power by a doubtful implication.

In this conflict of opinion what is to be done? There is but one safe course for pursue—non intervention—no agitation of the subject, in any manner, by the general government. Let there be no law admitting or prohibiting slavery in the territories. If, however, Congress does legislate upon the subject, either nointer execution is a complet; its text is to be expounded accor

rounding provision more than any other part."
The constitution declares "that the judicial power of the United States extends to all cases in law and equity, arising under the constitution, the lawa of the United States, &c." This question can only grow out of a law of the United States, and for its

grow out of a law of the United States; and for its proper exposition, we should resort to the judicial power, which is concentrated in the Supreme Coort. This I conceive to be the constitutional doctrine, and it admits of neither secession, nullification, nor dissolution of the Union.

The right of secession can only be claimed upon a principle which lies at the foundation of our political existence; that is, when copression becomes so intolerable that forcible resistance and revolution is the only remedy for the evil. We are at an immeasurable distance from this point of provocation, and if secession is attempted, it will be an attempt at revolution; it will be a violation of the constitution, and a subversion of the Union. The President will then have no other alternative, under his oath to protect and defend the constitution, than his outh to protect and defend the constitution, than to use the force of the government to put down the revolution. I will not not contemplate the consequences which are to follow such scenes, but recur with pleasure to the calm which now temporarily pervades the country, as affording a fit opportunity for all good citizens to appreciate the value of the Union, which, by the conservative principles of our constitution, so emphatically constitute us one people, an opportunity in which all should resolve, with sleepless vigitance, to guard it, not only as the citadel from whence it is to be defended, but the great store-house of all our hopes, which under Divine Providence, is not only to perpetuate our own safety and happiness as American citizens, but likewise constitute us the great exemplar of sations.

South Carolina Free Negro Laws, and Brit-ish Segross—Correspondence between the British Consul and the Governor of South Carolina.

BRITISH CONSUL TO THE GOVERNOR.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 14, 1850.

The undersigned, her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the States of North and South Carolina, has the honor to intimate to your Excellency, that he is instructed to invite the consideration of your Excellency, and of the Legislature of South Carolina, now assembled, to the existing law of the State, under which a class of her Britannic Majesty's subjects, entering, on the guarantee of a national treaty, the ports of South Carolina, in trading vessels, or in distress, are taken from the protection of the British flag, and imprisoned in the common jails until the moment of their ship's departure.

protection of the British flag, and imprisoned in the common jails until the moment of their ship's departure.

The direct mode, adopted by H. B. M's. government in this communication, will, the undersigned hopes, be accepted as a further proof of consideration and good will towards the State of South Carolina.

Aware of the constitutional change impending upon his arrival, he has purposely awaited your Excellency's official inauguration into office.

The State of South Carolina, the undersigned apprehends, has derived advantages of moment from the present liberal commercial intercourse with Great Britain, as it is evidently the price at which her staple commodities of rice and cotton can be sold, that limits their production and importation from various other countries; nor will it escape the recollection of your Excellency and of the Legislature, that the punctifious adherence of the British Government to the unintended, but strict, application of the wording of the mutual treaty, enabled a talented Carolinian gentleman to obtain for the South, under it, a further benefit.

To the distinct clauses of that treaty, and to the declaration in the constitution of the United States, which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all the treaties made, or which shall be made under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land." The undersigned begs to call your Excellenc'y attentions, apprehending that its infraction by the act in question will appear indubitable.

The substitution of any more "protective" basis of commercial intercourse for the present treaty, would, he feels persuaded, be at variance with the wishes of her Britannic Majesty's government, but, it is just, and indispensable to its continuance, that a perfect reciprocity in its advantages should be asomitted.

Her Britannic Majesty's government seek this reciprocity in the unrestricted trade of her Ma-

amitted. Her Britannic Majesty's government seek this Her Britannic Majesty's government seek this reciprocity in the unrestricted trade of her Majesty's West Isdian colonies with all parts of the United States. These colonies mainly depend on their imports for corn, flour, cattle, salt provisions, and lumber; and to their small but numerous vessels, (necessarily manned by mixed and chiefly colored crews,) the ports of North and South Carolina, respectively, are more especially suitable, and at all seasons accessible.

Your Excellency and the Legislature will, the undersigned cannot doubt, concur with him in the general international understanding of the powers of police or port regulations, co-existent with treaties, namely:—That such permanent regulations should extend to foreigners the same restrictions they impose on natives of the spot where they are enforced, of a similar class and calling, and no more.

The undersigned indules in the hops that.

they are enforced, of a similar class and calling, and no more.

The undersigned indulges in the hope that, under these circumstances, the Legislature of South Carolina will see fit to abrogate or amend such portion of the law as applies to the subjects of fereign allied powers, and will thus strengthen the existing bonds of commerce, of friendship, and of mutual good faith, with a kindred nation.

[Signed] GEORGE L. MATHEW.

TO HIS Excellency, The Governor and Commander-in-Chief of South Carolina, &c., &c.

To His Excellency, The Governor and Commander-in-Chief of South Carolina, &c., &c.

THE GOVERNOR'S REFLY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 16, 1850. \$

The undersigned, Governor of the Commonwealth of South Carolina, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, in relation to the law now existing, by which a class of H B. M's subjects are imprisoned upon landing in Charleston, and the undersigned takes this occasion to assure H. B. M's Consul of the friendly feeling entertained to his government by the State over which he has the honor to preside, and that no disposition exists to do anything that might tend to disturb the amicable relations now existing between the two governments.

The law alluded to, the Legislature of South Carolina deemed necessary to enact from considerations of safety to the institutions of the State, and not with a view of imposing any unnecessary restraint upon the seamen claiming the protection of the flag of any friendly power.

The communication of H. B. M's Consul will be transmitted to the Legislature at the earliest possible convenience of the undersigned, and no doubt will meet with a respectful consideration.

[Signed]

J. H. Means.

To H. B. M's Consul, George B. Mathew, Esq.

Additional Notes To The Governor.

To H. B. M's Consul, George B. Mathew, Esq.

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE GOVERNOR.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 17, 1850.

The undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, for the State of North and South Carolina, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's "note" of the 16th inst., conveying to him the gratifying assurance of the friendly feelings entertained to his government by the State over which your Excellency presides, and intimating, also, your Excellency's intention to transmit the communication of the undersigned at your Excellency's earliest convenience, to the Legislature of South Carolina.

mit the communication of the undersigned at your Excellercy's carliest convenience, to the Legislature of South Carolina.

The undersigned would merely desire, in continuance of his "note" of the 14th inst., to request the consideration of your Excellency, and of the Legislature, to the opinion of the late Attorney General Wirt, elaborately written, under the command of the Hon. J. Q. Adams, President of the United States, and printed in "Elliot's American Diplom. Code," (Appendix, vol. ii. p. 676.) concluding in the following forcible language:—

"I am of opinion that the section of the law under consideration is void, for being against the constitution, treaties, and law of the United States, and incompatible with the rights of all nations in amity with the United States."

This opinion your Excellency will, the undersigned conceives, hold to be well founded on the supreme power of treaties, as ruled by all writers on international law, and briefly but decisively laid down by Wheaton, in his "Elements of International Law," who states, (page 122, chap. 1, part 22,) under the head of the "Rights of Self-Preservation and Independence," of nations:—

"The only exceptions in the scaling time of these."

2,) under the head of the "Rights of Self-Preservation and ladependence," of nations:

"The only exceptions to the application of these general rules arise out of compact, such as treaties of alliance, guarantee, or mediation, to which the State itself, whose concerns are in question, has become a party."

The undersigned feels fully assured that her Majesty's government may confidently rely on the justice and good faith of the Legislature of South Carolina to arrest, from the present moment, the operation of an act which he apprehends will, on examination, be found liable (by the individual irritation it must cause,) to create the results it was designed to preclude.

[Signed,] Gronge B. Mattiew.

His Excellency, the Governor of the State South Carolina.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

COLUMBIA, 19th December, 1850.

The undersigned, Governor over the Commonwealth of South Carolina, has the konor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the 17th, from H. B. M.'s Consul, and informs him that it will be transmitted to the Legislature forthwith.

The undersigned takes this occasion to renew his assurances of his own friendly feelings, and those of the State over which he has the honor to preside, towards H. B. M.'s Government, and also his individual respect for H. B. M.'s Consul.

(Signed)

JOHN H. MRAYS.

CURROUS DISCRETE IN TURBUNA A. PROPERT OF TURBUNA A. P. CONSUL.

H. B. M.'s Consni, George B. Mathew, Esq.

CURIOUS DISPRIE IN TURREY—A RELIQUE OF THE SAVIOUR'S LAST SUFFER.—A Greek convent at Salonica, in Turkey, has, from time immemorial, possessed a fragment of the vessel which, it is said, Jesus Christ used at the last supper. In October last it was missed, together with the shrine in which it was placed. The pacha gave orders that a strict search should be made after it, and he especially directed that all baggage passing through the custom-house should be closely examined. At the beginning of the mooth, the custome officers found the relic and the shrine in a box scaled up with the seals of the Russian consulate, and destined for Salonica. They seized them, and sent them to the pacha. The Russian consul, a man of honorable character, protested he knew not that the things were in the box. He complained that his seals had been hroken, and said it was a violation of treaties. He insisted that the relic and the shrine should be restored to the box. But the pacha, who was embarrassed by the demand, sent them to the Divan at Consumitable, leaving it to decide on what should be done. The authenticity of the relic is said never to have, been doubted, and thousands of pilgims were accustomed to visit it every year.—Galigman's Messenger.

Politics and the Next Presidency. Massachuserre. The present aspect of political af.

Massachuservs.—The present aspect of political affairs in this State, is one of perfect confusion. The majority of the free soil party in the Legislature, and the failure to entirely coalesce with the democrate, render it more than probable that no United States Senator for the present or future Congress will be chosen. The democrate refuse to aid in the election of one who always, before the existence of the present free soil party, acted and voted with the whigs; hence, after repeated trials, there is now no mere probability of an election than on the day when the Legislature assembled. This feeling exists not only in the legislative body, but is diffused among the people throughout the State. The fourth Congressional District has not and will not, be represented in the Thirty-farst Congress; and it is exceedingly doubtful if an election will be made for the Thirty-second Congress. At the regular election for members to the next Congress, but three of the ten delegates were elected; and a subsequent trial, a few days since, gave syldence that the parties are so divided that seweral trials will be had before the whole representation is elected. The abolitionists endeavor, by every possible means, to keep up an agitation which will tend to keep the State unrepresented unless by men of their own stamp. The course of Hon, John G. Paifrey, against a coalition with the democrate by the free soil, or abolition with the democrate by the free soil, or abolition with the democrate by the free soil, or abolition with the democrate by the free soil, or abolition with the democrate by the free soil, or abolition with the democrate by the parties of the Gerrit Smith school, there is an evident disposition on the part of the State, except by the advocates of the Gerrit Smith school, there is an evident disposition on the part of the State, one play in the northern and western portions of the State, to keep alive the flame of discord which so recently agitated the whole Union. The whigs and abolitioniats have a majority in t

northern and western portions of the State, to keep alive the flame of discord which so recently agitated the whole Union. The whigs and abolitionists have a majority in the State, and they have the control in the State Legisature, but have not as yet succeeded in the passage of any measure disregarding the law of the nation. Several efforts have been made to express the disapprobation of the Legislature of the Fugitive Stave law; but as yet the voice of the State through her representatives, has not gone forth against the law of the common country. The chief leader of the abolition whigs. Senator Seward, has been very quiet during the present session of Congress, which is surmised as a bid for something higher than the post he now occupies. The election of a Senator to supply the place of the fleen. Daniel S. Dickinson is now scarcely spoken of by the country press, and barely alluded to occasionally by the Atlany Ecraing Journal. There is very little doubt but the arrangement has already been effected; and in their own time the members of the Legislature will formally appoint one who has long since been elected in private conclave. Ex-Governer Fish is the one upon whom the Senatorial mantle will fall; and from the well-known views of those who elect him, it is reasonable to infer that he subscribes to the first branch of the national council.

South Carolinia—A mighty change seems to have been wrought in this State. There is new little or no clamor

wrought in this State. There is new little or no clamor for a dissolution of the Union. The great excitement wrought in this State. There is new little or no clamor for a dissolution of the Union. The great excitement which, a few moaths since pervaded the whole State, has subsided—and from the quietness new existing, it is reasonable to suppose that a portion of the people, at least, are satisfied with the laws passed during the last session of Congress. Gen Hamilton, one of the most prominent politicians of the State, strongly reprodutes the idea of secession er dissolution; and Mr. Berry, a politician of considerable notoriety, and a member of the Legislature, has spoken bololy of the exils to result from the course recommended during the late excitement. There are many men of like stamp throughout the State, and their influence seems to have wrought a great change in the minds of the people. But with all this there are many and prominent men in the State, who would see the Union dissolved, regardiess of the consequences. The press generally has very little to say upon the subject, though I hay watch every political movement at the North with a jealous eye. So far as the Presidency is concerned, the people are evidently carcless as to the result, as none of the candidates now prominent come up to the standard of the ideas of the State upon the questions affecting the institution of sixvery.

North Carolina.—This State, throughout the whole of the recent agitation, ma'ntained a conservative po-

of the recent agitation, maintained a conservative po-sition, and did not call for a dissolution of the Union, because of the passage of the compromise measures. The people are satisfied if the existing laws are faithfully carried out; though, through the Legislature, cally carried out; though, through the Legislature, they have protested against further aggression upon their rights by the North. There are some features of the measures passed by Congress which were alone, nuacceptable; but with the whole laws they express their satisfaction. A series of resolutions have been introduced in the lower branch of the Legislature, to the effect that the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, or the prohibition of the slave trade between the States, would be sufficient cause for North Carolina to join with her sister Southern States in proclaiming the dissolution of the Union. There is very little probability that those resolutions redect the will of the people, as every indication of the press is favorable to a quiet submission to the laws of the nation.

Mississippi.—In this State, too, an extracrimary

Mississieri.-In this State, too, an extraerdinary change has taken place in the minds of the people, if the press is a true reflector of their views and weshet. The Mississippium and Vicksburg Sentinet, the two leading disunion journals of the State, have become comparatively quiet, and little of an exciting character is said upon the subject of the late compaomies measures. The course of Judge Sharkey, upon the questions which so recently agitated the State, has effected a wonderful revolution. There are many in the State who would prefer to see the North and South separated, but there being very little sympathy with such a movement in the other Southern States, the agitation now seems to be dying of itself.

feeling in this State, there is an evident determination on the part of a pertion of the people to maintain the paws of the country. The Milwaukie Sentinel and Gazette, the leading whig paper of the State, has always stood upon strong abolition ground, and like some of its cotemporaries at the East, has not tailed to abuse, in no measured terms, the Fugitive Slave law. The Wissensin, a demacratic paper in the same place, has also occupied the free soil platform; but it is doubtful if that journal is a true exponent of the views and principles of the democratic party generally. There is no coult but the people of the State are opposed to the extension of the institution of slavery, and some of the features of the Fugitive Slave law are repugnant to them; but they are unwilling to violate the law. In his message to the Legislature, Governor Dewey takes strong ground in favor of a proper regard of all the laws passed by Congress. He says that the law relative to the resulting of fugitives from labor is not so liberal as the people of his datae would desire, and they would like a modification of some of its provisions, but it will be regarded as it is and no effort should be made to impair or reader nugatory any of those provisions, except by Congress by which body it was passed. Like the other Northwestern States which have epoken upon the subject Wisconsin is ready to maintain the laws at all hazards. n no measured terms, the Fugitive Slave law, Tue

Introduction of Water Gas in Canada.

Istroduction of Water Gas in Cacada. Having aiready grawn attention to an important innovation in domestic economy, namely, the use of gas generated from water, in hea of the more expeasive, and (in many instances) the anattainable coal gas, we are now enabled to speak of the quality and merits of the new discovery from personal observation and inquiry,—naving witnessed its application to ordinary purposes, at Mr. Aubin's residence, where it is in nightly use, and nightly visited by numbers of curious and inquiring visiters. Mr. Aubin's present apparatus is of the most rude character, being purely experimental, but its very incompleteness is proof in its behalf when such anisfactory results are constantly obtained. It is his intention to lecture upon the subject of his meritorious labors, when the perfect machinery (most simple in its character and design) will be exhibited. The quality of the gas seen by us, was pure and brilliant, and separently of sufficient power. Ours was an impromptu visit, and at the time we made it, the small gasometer was nearly emptied. The color of the light is less fatiguing to the eye than that of the coal gas, and we understand that it may be more or less timed in the process of manufacture, to suit the fancy or vision of the consumer. It emits no smoke, a most important consideration as respects drawing-room furaiture, or establishments in which dry goods fabrics are exposed, and is devoid of that acid of coal gas so destructive to lacquering, &c. In addition to these very important desiderates, if allowed to escape it does not fill the apartment with that pestilential effluvium by which an issue of the ordinary gas is rendered so unpleasant. We mention these facts without comment, our sole object being to introduce into notice an article of much importance, and one that may be procured at a cheaper rate and without inconvenience, in every private dwelling. We understand that Mr. Awhin has already some orders to execute, and several public establishme accanned private individuals

A SOLITION OF THE GOLD COINAGE OF BELGIUM. A solution of the Gold Coinage of Belleium.—
A dvices from Brussels announce that, contrary to
the report of the recent commission, the chamber
have voted the withdrawal of the gold comage in
Belgium, both as respects the anional currency,
and all foreign gold moneys. The quantity at
present in circulation is estimated at about \$1,000,000 sterling of Belgian pieces, issued in 118-48, and
about £1,500,000 of Dutch ten guider pieces. The
measure has caused considerable excitement, and
a fall of about I to 14 per cent in the price of gold
bad taken place.